

A.(1) The periods for conducting absentee application and voting in person shall be from twelve days to six days prior to any scheduled election.

(2) During the period of absentee voting in person, the registrar shall maintain regular office hours, remaining open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Saturday; however, if a Saturday or any holiday provided by law or proclaimed by the governor for state departments falls during the period for absentee voting, the office of the registrar shall remain open until 4:30 p.m. on such Saturday and on the last day of the period for absentee voting and the registrar shall post a notice to that effect at the entrance to the office of the registrar. Absentee voting in person on the last day of voting will terminate when all persons who were in line to vote at the close of the regular office hours of the registrar's office, as provided herein, have been allowed to vote. If the office space of the registrar is insufficient or inconvenient to accommodate absentee voting, the registrar may provide for an alternate location to conduct absentee voting, which location shall be in the courthouse or in a public building in the immediate vicinity thereof, and in such case, adequate notice shall be posted at the registrar's office informing the public of the location where absentee voting is being conducted.

(3) A registrar may use law enforcement officers to maintain order at any location where absentee voting is conducted.

(4) A registrar shall observe the holidays which are provided by law or proclaimed by the governor for state departments during any period for conducting absentee application and voting in person.

B. For the purpose of facilitating absentee voting in person, the registrar may designate, in addition to the location for absentee voting provided in Subsection A hereof, one branch office wherein absentee voting in person may be conducted. Any such branch office shall be located in a public building and the hours during which absentee voting in person may be conducted therein shall be fixed by the registrar as provided in Subsection A of this Section.

C. In parishes which extend in one direction more than fifty miles and which are interspersed with navigable waters, the registrar may designate, in addition to the locations for absentee voting provided for in Subsections A and B hereof, one additional branch office wherein absentee voting in person may be conducted. Any such branch office shall be located in a public building and the hours during which absentee voting in person may be conducted therein shall be fixed by the registrar.

D.(1) Before any voter is allowed to vote absentee in person, the registrar or his deputy shall establish the voter's identity by requiring him to submit his Louisiana driver's license, his current registration certificate, or other identification card, by comparison with the descriptive information on the precinct register, or in the manner provided in R.S. 18:105(A).

(2) If the voter's name is found in the precinct register on the inactive list of voters, the voter shall be required to complete an address confirmation card to determine his eligibility to vote.

E.(1) Upon a voter's application to vote absentee in person, the registrar or his deputy shall obtain the information required to be included on the list provided in R.S. 18:1311(A).

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this Paragraph, the voter shall sign the precinct register prior to voting. If the voter is voting at a branch office as provided in Subsection B of this Section, he shall be required to sign and date a list kept by the registrar prior to casting his vote.

(3) The voter may opt to have the registrar or deputy registrar fill in or electronically generate the information on the in-person absentee application, with the exception of the voter's signature. After the in-person absentee application has been completed, the voter shall sign the certificate on the application and return the application to the registrar or deputy registrar. The registrar or deputy shall hand to the voter the certificate provided in R.S. 18:1310(B), if needed. The voter then shall be allowed to cast his vote in an area and in a manner that protects the secrecy of his vote.

(4)(a) In order to cast a vote on a voting machine, a voter shall make a selection in a candidate or proposition election. Voting is completed by activating the cast vote mechanism. If the voter has made any selection in a candidate or proposition election but has failed to activate the cast vote mechanism, the registrar or his deputy, observed by a deputy registrar or, in the absence of a deputy registrar, a witness, shall activate the cast vote mechanism for the fled voter without altering any selections made by the voter. In the case of vote activation in the presence of a witness, the registrar or deputy registrar shall record the name and address of the witness.

(b) In order to cast a vote on a paper ballot, a voter must make a selection for a candidate or for or against a proposition by completely filling in the oval to the right of a selection and returning the ballot to the appropriate election official within the applicable deadline set forth by law. If a voter makes selections for more than the number of candidates to be elected for an office or makes selections for and against the same proposition, the selections for that office or proposition will be void.

(5) Persons entitled to assistance pursuant to R.S. 18:564 are entitled to vote with assistance during absentee voting in person. The procedures set forth in R.S. 18:564 should be followed for absentee voting in person.

(6) If a person who votes absentee in person at the registrar's office casts his vote on an incorrect ballot as provided to him by the registrar or his deputy and the time for absentee voting in person has not expired, the registrar or his deputy shall void the incorrect ballot and permit the voter to vote the correct ballot.

F. By no later than the fifth day before an election, the registrar shall have received from the branch office all ballots, in-person absentee applications, ballot envelopes, certificates, lists, and other election paraphernalia. Immediately upon receipt of these materials, the registrar shall compare the information contained on each in-person absentee application, the flap certificate of each ballot, and the signed lists with the information contained in

the precinct register. If the registrar finds any discrepancies between the information contained on an in-person absentee application or the flap certificate of a ballot envelope and that contained in the precinct register, he shall make a note thereof on the front of the ballot envelope or in-person absentee application.

G. Prior to delivery of the precinct register to the parish custodian, the registrar shall enter the word "absentee" and the date of the election in the proper space on the precinct register for each voter who voted absentee in person and for each voter who voted absentee by mail whose ballot the registrar had received on or before the last day for voting absentee in person.

H. In the event of the inability to utilize voting machines for in-person absentee voting within a parish, the registrar may utilize paper ballots for in-person absentee voting.

Acts 1976, No. 697, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1978. Amended by Acts 1980, No. 506, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1981; Acts 1981, No. 106, §1, eff. July 3, 1981; Acts 1982, No. 10, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1983; Acts 1983, No. 519, §1, eff. July 8, 1983; Acts 1984, No. 672, §1; Acts 1985, No. 755, §1; Acts 1987, No. 831, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1988; Acts 1989, No. 179, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1990; Acts 1992, No. 949, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1993; Acts 1997, No. 1420, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 1998; Acts 1999, No. 254, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 2000; Acts 2001, No. 1181, §1, eff. Jan. 1, 2002; Acts 2002, 1st Ex. Sess., No. 130, §§1, 3, eff. April 23, 2002; Acts 2003, No. 1220, §2, eff. July 3, 2003; Acts 2004, No. 526, §2, eff. June 25, 2004.